

3-5-1845

Walter C. Allison to T.L. Treadwell, 5 March 1845

Walter C. Allison

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Columbia South Carolina Nov. 23. 1840.

Dear Brother Bethel,

It is truly gratifying to me, and I regard it a great privilege, when not able to converse with a Brother or a friend, sitting together in the social circle, to be able to sit me down and talk to him by writing, and make such statements to him as I would make were we in conversation together, & altho. I cannot say ~~all~~ that might be said if ~~we~~ were in company together, yet we can say much to each other, & convey such information from one to another as often gives us a great deal of satisfaction, or tell them of our sorrows and afflictions, express to them our views and feelings, both with respect to time & our affairs on earth, and our hopes and prospects in the world to come; as to my own part, altho. I really have any thing ^{good} to communicate, with regards to either, yet, sometimes it affords some degree of satisfaction to relate the sufferings of body or the sorrows of the mind to a Bro^r or friend, & so in the present case, if I can't say I am rich or becoming so, if I can't say that I have as much Religion as I should have, nor that I enjoy good health in my family, and the like, yet I can tell you we are all ~~yet~~ in the land of the living, & thro. the mercy of God, I enjoy a reasonable share of health, & so does all the family, except your sister, who is an intire stranger to any thing like health, she is a great sufferer, sometimes she is for days six, eight or ten days, together, so severely afflicted with head ache, pain in the breast, and back or some other sore affliction, that you would suppose when seeing her scorch with fever & suffer as she does, she could not live twenty four hours, then she will get a little better, & some hope will spring up, that after awhile, it is possible her health will be restored; but soon our hopes are cut of at the root, like Jonah's Gourd, it has become a source of deep distress, yea grief & sorrow, often fills my heart, & rends my very soul, when I reflect on her constant affliction our poverty the expense of living, the Doctors Bill, & for Medicine, together with every other privation that I suffer in consequence, I often feel, that the hope which some times bears me up sinks & my spirits droop, &

and almost die, I fly to God for help, some times it is afforded immediately, & then it seems to tarry long & I have to try again & again, at last help comes, and I am enabled to bear up, & receive some comfort; but then the world, the Devil & the flesh, are all to fight against, & then again, my debts are large & must be paid, my means small, poverty so too, & for the soul of me, I cant save, the wants, not the necessities, of Dan, Julian, Louisa their Mother & myself, are all to be met some how & how I often dont know, a faint picture of your Brothers condition in this world of suffering;

We are now in Town sending the two girls to school, & Dan studying Medicine, how long I shall remain in the Town, I cant say, it is sorely against my will, but necessity is upon me, I can not do as I would, my burden is a heavy one, & I shall find it so, I fear, both in this world & in the next; & none but God can change my situation & make it better; I have tried the skill & patience of our Physicians, & done all I can do or have done, & the whole, or nearly so, has been like pouring water on an oil fire, it has done but little or no good that we can realize, so it must all rest in the hands of him that made us & has preserved us to G.

The rage of politics has not ceased entirely, tho. somewhat abated, our State Legislature, are to meet this day, they are collecting, as fast as they can, & expect they will form Quorum, to do business; Our Election I suppose will be contested, all the highest Candidates were whigs, & the Varnishes, are very much against them, & there being a grounds of contest, namely seventeen votes in the Columbia box, more than there were names to cover, it is a fair ground of contest, altho, the votes every one of them, were for the Democrats; As to crops in these parts, they are good, say an average, but short when put by the last years G. as to money, God only knows what the country will do, bad enough I know, how it will wind up with me, I cant say, but hard, & tough as you heard, I hope to stand up, tho it

wile be a per chance business, I fear many will come down, & some I think will break all to pieces; & some will make largely off those that loose all.

But why should a living man complain, this is but a state of trial, a brief a temporary dwelling place, every thing in it is passing away, and it will soon come to pass, that the Rich & pleasure taking will be as poor & it may be as miserable as the now poor & afflicted, & the warm will feed on one with as much glee as on the other they know not any difference, the Grave knows now, & the Judge of all the earth hath done & will do Right. Jos. Ben, Frank & their families are in common health, William and his have been very sick by this year, but they are all better now, we got a letter from them dated 15th Inst. Crops in that part of the Country are much cut off by the wet weather and the caterpillars. I have had no letter from any of the other boys, except Gileads, since I wrote to you last Bro. G. said he had been sick, state he was better and able to attend to his school, seems to express his mind as bound to live for & to the glory of God & his own Salvation hope he may hold out & live and die forgiven. I trust that God may supply us all with grace and strength according to our day, & make us all meet for heaven. pray for us, as we do not forget to pray for you, all the family presents their love to you & your wife To Mother and all the family, tell my dear Mother I am Truly weary looking for a letter from her, that I think she might send me one if time will not. the dear band is not studying Law as he expected to do is, he could not get a good Preceptor, and being advised by some of his friends to study Medicine, as the most profitable, & having a good opportunity for that study he has gone to work with all his might. So I close for the present by a most hearty and devout pray to Almighty God, for your happiness here & hereafter & subscribing myself, your affectionate elder

Z. B. D. Tradewell
Nephew

Brother
B. Tradewell

N.B. I rec^d yours of the 6. Inst. Yesterday morning.

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Mr. Isaac D. Tradewell
Hudsonville
Mississippi

Mail

Dr. Tradewell